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SUBJECT: CANADA ON SUMMIT OF AMERICAS DECLARATION

REF: STATE 178321

1. (SBU) Summary: Canada would like to build on rather than scrap language in the Summit Declaration, given the amount of time that has already been spent negotiating the text and the disruption that new language would cause. The GOC would also like to see more forward-looking language and a more ambitious approach to the FTAA. The GOC would be very reluctant to go to a fall-back approach of a leader,s statement, as it would eliminate some of the text Canada feels strongly about. Canadian officials are optimistic that the Argentines are stepping up to the plate in terms of leadership and have offered to support Buenos Aires to pay for translators for working groups. End Summary.

2. (SBU) The Ambassador raised the issue of the Summit with FM Pettigrew September 27 and PolMinCouns also discussed it with Associate Deputy Minister Peter Boehm (former Canadian PermRep at the OAS and currently serving as the Summit Sherpa for the government). The Minister agreed with the need to get down to serious business on the draft and pledged Canada,s support. Canada, too, is serious about achieving a credible, useful declaration, he said.

3. (SBU) ADM Boehm said he has been working declaration strategy directly with Tom Shannon and believes that we generally see eye to eye. Canada is reluctant, however, to table a new draft at this late date and believes it is better to build on what has been agreed to by consensus and try to work-in previously agreed language from Nuevo Leon and Monterrey.

4. (SBU) On September 28 Poloff met with FAC Director General Sarah Fountain-Smith and Summit Coordinator Jennifer Loten to discuss the issue in more detail. Fountain-Smith reiterated that Canada remains committed to a successful outcome for the Summit process and will be sending detailed comments on our proposal to Ambassador Durrand to pass to Ambassador Maisto. Canada agrees that we need to have a new approach to get the text more in line with Nuevo Leon, but differs with us on how to achieve this. Their thinking is driven by two concerns: first, time is limited, and second, there is a good deal of hard-work that has gone into the current draft that would be lost if new language was tabled.

5. (SBU) What Canada would like to do, rather than start over with new language, is use our ideas in a way that builds on what has already been agreed. The GOC would also like to see some Canadian priorities reflected. One example of what they would say differently: instead of focusing on the &burdensome regulatory framework,8 they would talk of &streamlining regulations.8 This would focus on the solution not the problem and lend the text a more positive air. The GOC also believes that the text needs to be more realistic about poverty. The US draft, Loten said, seems to downplay the issue of poverty, which is more serious and more pervasive than we indicate. In short, Fountain-Smith said, the GOC would like to build on previously achieved consensus when it can, make it a forward looking document, and be realistic about poverty.

6. (SBU) Fountain-Smith also said Canada would like to see language that distinguishes between the IFIs. Canada believes there is a distinct difference between the World Bank and the IMF and that it is not helpful to have them lumped together. With regards to the FTAA, Canada is in favor of more ambitious language and will seek to generate support among like-minded countries and regions such as Chile and Caricom. FAC asked when precisely, we would be tabling our language on the FTAA next week so they can have the right people in attendance.

7. (SBU) With regards to putting out a shorter leader,s statement in place of the declaration, our colleagues consider this a questionable approach. They believe that merely considering the proposal would take up two days, much like the half day that was spent just agreeing to the process when the first part of the declaration was re-opened earlier. They believe we need to not lose steam and forge ahead with the declaration. They also expressed concern that in moving from the declaration to a leader,s statement a number of key points for Canada, e.g. women, indigenous issues, and health would fall out. They similarly believe equity issues would be watered down to a general statement that does not capture

the essence of the issue. Canada would also like to preserve the link between governance and prosperity, which would be lost in a shorter statement. In any event, Loten said, there is no indication that a leader,s statement would be easier to negotiate -- the same issues would need to be worked and things like the WTO and FTAA would be just as difficult. We might as well do it as a declaration, she said, to give it full weight.

18. (SBU) The GOC, Fountain-Smith believes, remains hopeful that Argentina can pull it all together. It believes that the Argentines have begun to take on more of a leadership role and could yet lead a successful process. Fountain-Smith mentioned that Canada has offered to pay for the translation for working groups but have not heard back from the Argentines on whether they accept the offer.

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